

FD 493

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT The 7 Border Guard Otryad

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Border Guard Organization

1. The Border Guards (Gramichna Veyska) are special troops used for guarding the Bulgarian borders. They are under the direction of the Border Guard Directorate (Gramichni Veyski Upravlenie) of the Ministry of Interior, with its headquarters in the General Militia Headquarters Building, on the corner of Georgi Dimitrov and Slivnitsa Boulevards, Sofia.

2. The Bulgarian border areas are administratively divided into eight or nine Sectors (Sekter). Each Sector has two Border Guard Otryads assigned to it. The Otryad is composed of three Komandaturas, with each Komandatura divided into six Zastavas. Though each Zastava ideally consists of 90 officers and men, the actual strength varies according to the nature of the terrain over which the Zastava has jurisdiction. Some Komandaturas, such as 1 Border Guard Komandatura, Zvezdets (N 42-07, E 27-24), subordinate to 7 Border Guard Otryad, P, Malke Turneve, have only five Zastavas.

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3. [redacted] the Sector facing Turkey had its headquarters in Burgas¹ and Otryad headquarters in Elkheve and Malke Turneve, and the Black Sea Coast Sector had its headquarters in Varna² with Otryad headquarters in Varna and Burgas. [redacted] there is a Sector Headquarters in Vidin, [redacted]

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4. The border area under the jurisdiction of each Otryad varies in size depending on the nature of the terrain and the ease with which border security can be imposed on the area. The 7 Border Guard Otryad, with

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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headquarters in Malke Turnovo, controls a border area of 117 kilometers, and extends inland as far as 30 kilometers at points, though the depth is not uniform and varies according to the nature of the terrain.

Methods of Operation

5. Based on the methods of operation practiced by 7 Border Guard Otryad, the following standard operational procedures seem to be currently in effect:
 - a. The area is divided into clearly defined sub-areas, controlled by each Kemandatura, with each sub-area divided into areas controlled by Zastavas;
 - b. Each Zastava controls a strip of border anywhere from five to eight kilometers long and extends its control inland for a full five kilometers; the headquarters of the Zastavas are generally located as close to the border as feasible (in the case of 1 Border Guard Komandatura, subordinate to 7 Border Guard Otryad, the distances range from 990-1500 meters); and
 - c. The area further inland, extending from the 5 kilometer depth of Zastava control to the 25 to 30 kilometer depth where Otryad control ends, is under direct control of the respective Kemandaturas, which maintain one Zastava at Kemandatura headquarters to exercise control by the use of roving patrols, spot checking the population, and checking traffic on the highway in the area.
6. The Zastavas perform the following duties:
 - a. Border Patrols (Chasevi na Granitsata); These are 2-man teams which patrol on foot in 8-hour watches a strip of the border area generally two kilometers long and 100-150 meters deep. As each Zastava is responsible for approximately six kilometers of the border, the border line is usually subdivided into three strips which are covered by three 2-man patrols. All the men in these patrols have served a minimum of one year with the Border Guards. In order to maintain better control over the men, who are usually free during most of their 8-hour watch, these 2-man teams are not selected until just before their watch begins. This presumably eliminates the camaraderie that would grow among the men who are often on duty together, and tends to make the men suspicious of each other. Each team is armed with one submachine gun with two loaded clips, a carbine with 60-100 rounds of carbine ammunition, and two to four hand grenades, half of them offensive and half defensive. The men are equipped with a pair of binoculars, a Very pistol for signalling, two types of trip-wire signal alarm assemblies, length of rope with which to bind prospective prisoners, rubber gashes to deaden sound during night patrolling, and depending on the area, portable telephones which can be plugged into special telephone outlets located in the area.
 - b. Security Watch at the Zastava Headquarters (Chasevi na Zastavata): This consists of 3-man teams, who are on guard in the immediate vicinity of the Zastava headquarters in 8-hour watches from 0000 to 0800 to 1600, and 1600 to 2400 hours daily.

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- c. Corporal on Duty at the Zastava Headquarters, or Charge of Quarters (Dezhuren po Zastava): The Charge of Quarters at the Zastava headquarters is always a Corporal. During every 24-hour period two Corporals perform this duty, each on duty for 12 hours (6 hours on, 6 hours off). Their duties include alerting, assembling and dispatching the patrols to their posts, supervising every 20 minutes the activities of the Security Watch at the Zastava headquarters, notifying the Commanding Officer of the Zastava of any unusual happening, sending the Alert Detail into action when such action is called for (see paragraph f), answering the telephone and reporting to the Commanding Officer on all happenings that took place during the period, and keeping a log of all activities of the Zastava during the particular period of duty. The Charge of Quarters carries a side-arm.
- d. Observation Post Duty (Nablyudatelen Post): In addition to the regular daily Border Patrols, each Zastava mans as many permanent observation posts as proves feasible. These posts are of two types: wooden towers constructed in places where they will permit clear view of a good section of the border area, or camouflaged positions in sections of the Zastava area which offer natural observation of a section of the border and its approaches. There is also an observation post, combining features of both, i.e., camouflaged observation posts built in high trees which offer a clear view of the border area. The observation posts are usually manned by a minimum of four men who use both binoculars and telescopes. The towers are generally connected with the Zastava headquarters by telephone.
- e. Messenger Duty (Granichna Poshta): An armed 2-man team is detailed for Messenger Duty between the Zastava headquarters and the Kemandatura and Otryad headquarters. It is alleged that such teams can be executed if they permit the documents they carry to fall into enemy hands during an attack.
- f. Alert Detail (Trevezhna Grupa): Each Zastava maintains an Alert Detail of five or more men, commanded by an officer, who are at all times ready for immediate action. They are armed with automatic pistols and hand grenades and are equipped with Very pistols. Each detail has at least one, and generally two, trained dogs, as well as anti-personnel snares (telemi primki) which are set up in areas best suited to border crossing. A typical example of the use of this Detail would be a case in which a Border Patrol notifies the Zastava headquarters of an attempt at border crossing, in which event the Alert Detail will immediately be sent to aid in the capture of the border crossers.
- g. Highway Control and Supplementary Patrols (Chasevi na Bariera i Depulnitelen Post): The control of travel in the area is exercised by special Highway Control Teams of ten or more men, armed with submachine guns and at least one heavy machine gun. The teams are generally divided into pairs, who are stationed near bridges and crossroads and can communicate by telephone with the nearest inhabited place. These teams are on duty day and night and are mainly charged with checking the documents of all travelers in the area.
- h. Inland Patrols (Patrol): Special 2-man patrols are on duty daily throughout the Zastava's area. Though these patrols generally range over the countryside, and do not as a rule patrol the roads, they have the authority to stop any vehicle for a document check and to challenge anyone whom they see in the Zastava's area.

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- i. Area Reconnaissance Detail ("Krugov Dozor" - Ogledvay na Mestnosta): This is a 2-man detail, either on foot or mounted. The detail is of a special nature since the team makes a tour of the Zastava's area to contact shepherds, woodcutters, isolated farms, and check on any unauthorized newcomers who might be prospective illegal border crossers. As the shepherds, woodcutters, and other inhabitants of the border areas are instructed to collaborate with the Border Guards, these teams maintain the necessary contacts and enforce such collaboration. The team is armed, and generally draws rations for two days when leaving on this duty. The team is equipped with armbands with K.D. in red, followed by the first letter of the Zastava's code name, e.g., K.D.R. ("Krugov Dozor Rositsa").
- j. Hidden Sentry Duty (Sekret): These teams consist of two or three men, one of whom is either a Private First Class or a Corporal, which periodically take up hidden guard duty in places suitable for infiltration or escape, such as confluences of streams in valleys five to six kilometers distant from the border or in "areas near monasteries." They usually remain hidden in such areas on the assumption that illegal border crossers might attempt to cross the border nearby. Such teams often use a watch dog and also set up trip-wire alarm systems in the area.
- k. Ambush Detail (Zasada): If the Zastava is notified of a desertion or of prospective border crossers, special ambush teams of five or six men, under the command of an officer, attempt to set up an ambush in order to capture the culprits. Since these teams go into action upon receipt of specific intelligence regarding the deserter or border crosser, the team draws the type of armament believed to be the best suited to the occasion. The Ambush Detail usually works together with a Hidden Sentry Detail, which takes up a position some 100-150 meters behind the Ambush Detail. The Ambush Detail allegedly attempts to capture only those persons for whom it has been alerted, while the hidden sentry attempts to capture all others, such as guides or anyone who escapes the Ambush Detail.
- l. Security and Public Order Detail (Zaslon): These teams are utilized when there are public meetings, fairs, weddings or any other public occasions when people gather in large numbers in the border areas and which could be utilized by prospective border crossers to cover escape from, or infiltration into, the country. A special detail of ten or more men under the command of an officer is dispatched to the area where the gathering takes place in order to foil any illegal action. This detail usually takes up a position under cover in which it remains during the night. Such details are armed with submachine guns, carbines, light machine guns, and are equipped with a radio sending and receiving set. They also go into action should information be received of a prospective enemy attack along the border.
- m. Escort Detail (Konvoy): This team, consisting of at least two men, is responsible for the transfer of prisoners to Komandatura or Otryad headquarters. The Escort Detail is used when special permission is given to border zone inhabitants to cut either wood or grass near the border.
- n. Reconnaissance Patrols (Poysk): On occasions when the Zastava is ordered to make a general check of its area for reasons of security, a special Reconnaissance Patrol of twenty or more men, under the command of an officer, is formed and charged with making a detailed search of the area. Such patrols are armed with carbines, submachine guns and light machine guns, and are equipped with radio sending and receiving

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sets. They also use at least two watch dogs. For a search in the open, the patrol usually deploys in a horseshoe formation, with the men five to six meters apart, and the dogs and their handlers inside the horseshoe. The Reconnaissance Patrols are usually assisted by the Highway Control Patrols, which take up positions along the border for purposes of stopping anyone who might manage to avoid the Reconnaissance Patrol.

Of the duties mentioned above, those covered in paragraphs a to h are daily duties, the one covered in paragraph i is a regularly scheduled duty but carried out irregularly, and the remaining duties are those exercised at irregular intervals as the occasion demands.

7. Extra precautionary measures are taken for the 1 May and 9 September national holidays. These measures consist of a general state of alert for all troops and continual use of the Security and Public Order Detail, and are effective 15 days before the holiday and remain in effect for 15 days thereafter.

Signalling System Used by the Border Guard

8. Whenever unauthorized persons are detected entering the Zastava's area from across the border, the Zastava headquarters is alerted by means of a telephone call, a Very light or the firing of a weapon. Upon receipt of such a signal, the Security and Public Order Detail and the Reconnaissance Patrols are sent out to assist the Border Patrols in apprehending the border crossers. The same action is taken on the discovery of people attempting to flee Bulgaria.
9. If the Zastava headquarters has been signalled that foreign troops are massing along the border or actually crossing the border, the entire Zastava goes into action. Should an illegal border crosser or any other unauthorized person be arrested, the Zastava headquarters is signalled and the Alert Detail is sent to assist the Border Patrol.
10. If a Border Guard member is observed attempting to flee the country, a special signal requesting the presence of an officer is sent to Zastava headquarters.
11. When foreign aircraft are observed, the Zastava headquarters is immediately notified by signal. Fire in the border area is also reported by signal as soon as it is observed, because it is felt that setting fire to a border area is a type of diversionist activity likely to be undertaken by people planning to cross the border illegally.
12. Upon receipt of the various types of signals from the field, the Zastava headquarters instructs the Border Patrols in the action they should take. The most common instruction are the following:
 - a. Remain at your post;
 - b. Assemble at Zastava headquarters (given if the Zastava is in danger of attack);
 - c. Be on the lookout for unauthorized persons entering your area;
 - d. Take special precautions (an order given during national holidays and on special gatherings in the area, and resulting in the entire unit being put on stand-by alert duty);

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- e. Stand by arms (an order given in case of visits to the area by high-ranking officers or by special inspection details);
- f. Take up defense positions (an order given in case of an enemy attack); and
- g. Start guerrilla operations (an order given if a neighboring Zastava is being attacked by the enemy).

Recognition and Identification System

13. When patrols covering adjacent areas meet, the patrol first detecting the approach of the other automatically takes cover at the side of the path or trail and waits. As the other patrol approaches, the patrol in cover will challenge, and identification will be established, by means of sound and/or word, as described below. The two systems of challenge and identification used by informant's unit are as follows:

a. The patrol in cover gives a series of whistles, using an empty cartridge. The patrol thus challenged responds by rapping two stones together the same number of times and at approximately the same intervals as the whistles. Thus, if the challenge is three whistles at three-second intervals, the correct response is three raps of the stone on stone similarly spaced. [] a variation is when the challenging patrol uses an empty machine gun cartridge, producing a high, thin sound. In this event, the correct response is to lift the elevation arm of the rear sight of a carbine and click it the same number of times at similar intervals. The challenging whistles may be any number chosen on the spot at random, and may be regularly or irregularly spaced, but the response must correspond to the challenge.

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b. The patrol in cover gives the verbal challenge "What is the password?" (Shto e propusk?). The response is the name of a Bulgarian city or town previously designated as password of the day. The patrol challenged will then demand the countersign by asking "What is the answer?" (Shto e otsiv?). The reply is a word for a weapon or part of a weapon, having the same initial as the city or town, according to a set list. A list of these signs and countersigns used by the 17 Zastavas of 7 Border Guard Otryad [] in April 1953 is as follows:

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<u>Sign</u>	<u>Countersign</u>
Kolarovgrad	Karabina (carbine)
Zlatograd	Zatvor (bolt assembly)
Turnovo	Trinoga (machine gun tripod)
Nikopol	Nozh (knife)
Plovdiv	Pistolet (pistol)
Pleven	Pulnitel (clip)
Kalofer	Kartchnitsa (heavy machine gun)
Shenovo	Shpagan (submachine gun)

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<u>Sign</u>	<u>Countersign</u>
Asenovgrad	Avtomat (automatic pistol)
Mikhaylovgrad	Mernik (rear sight slide)
Ruse	Ruchka (bolt arm of a light M/G)
Oryakhovo	Oradie (cannon)
Blagoevgrad	Bomba (bomb)
Leskovets	Lopos (part of bayonet's leather cover)
Vidin	Vintovka (Vintovka rifle)

[redacted] patrols may use both of the above systems, i.e., sound, followed by words for more positive identification, or presumably in daytime when the approaching patrol may be recognized by uniform as Border Guard personnel, only the words. Any unauthorized persons would be similarly challenged unless and until it was clear they were not Border Guard personnel authorized to be in the area.

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Equipment

14. The following weapons and equipment are used by the Border Guard: side-arms, carbines, automatic pistols, submachine guns, light and heavy machine guns, hand grenades, various trip-wire signal alarm assemblies, trip-wire snares, Very pistols, radio sending and receiving sets and telephone sets. Watch dogs are used for special patrols.

15. The weapons are the same as those used by the Bulgarian armed forces and are all of Soviet manufacture, except for some offensive and defensive Bulgarian hand grenades.

Alarm Devices

16. The two types of trip-wire signal alarm assemblies used by the Border Guard are as follows:

a. A "signalizator" consists of a block of wood to which a cover is hinged. This cover has a hole into which a signal cartridge can be inserted. This hole is above a steel projection, which is imbedded in the main block and acts as a firing pin whenever the cover containing the live signal cartridge falls. The cover is propped open by means of a short wooden anchor peg to which a trip-wire is attached. The trip-wire is usually 20-30 centimeters above ground and 30-40 meters long, leading from the block to a peg driven into the ground, or perhaps attached to a tree. In order for the cover to slam down on the base with sufficient force to cause the signal cartridge to be fired, a strong spring connects the cover with the base and this spring contracts as soon as the wooden anchor peg is removed.

(A sketch based on a free-hand drawing [redacted] showing this signal alarm is included on page 8).

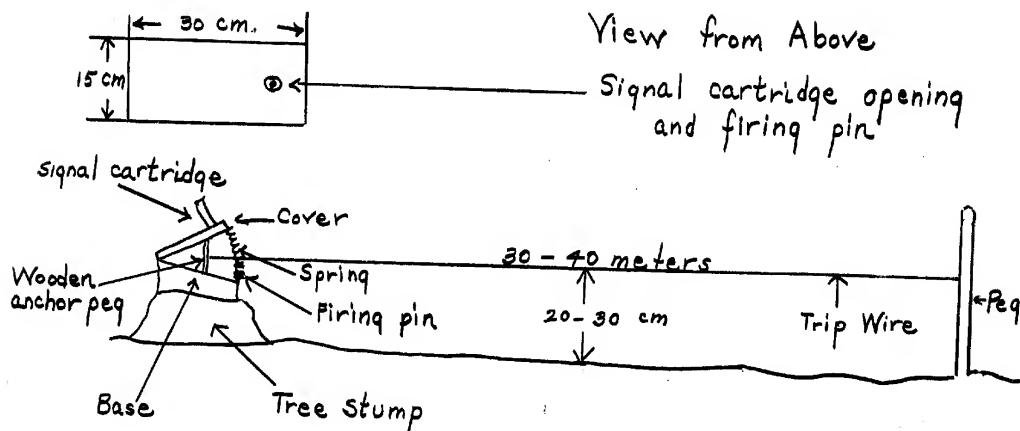
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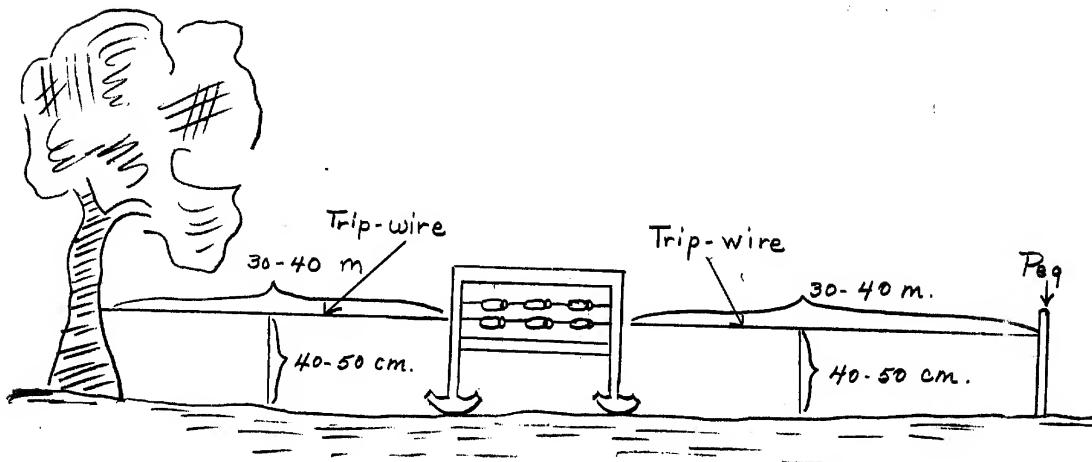
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b. The "Alalmirashti pibor" is much larger, and therefore not so easily concealed. It consists of a series of aluminum cans containing shot and mounted on a wooden frame set on curved rockers. The frame is then concealed and trip-wires approximately 30 to 40 meters in length are strung from the frame to either pegs or trees located on both sides of the frame. By disturbing the trip-wire the whole assembly is set into rocking motion, causing the shot in the cans to rattle and alert the patrol.

(A sketch based on a free-hand drawing [redacted] showing this signal alarm is included below).

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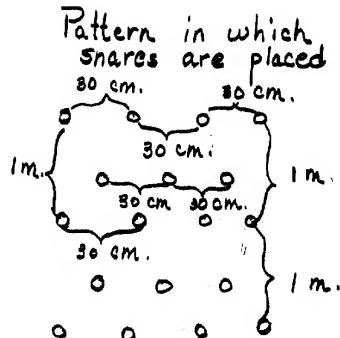
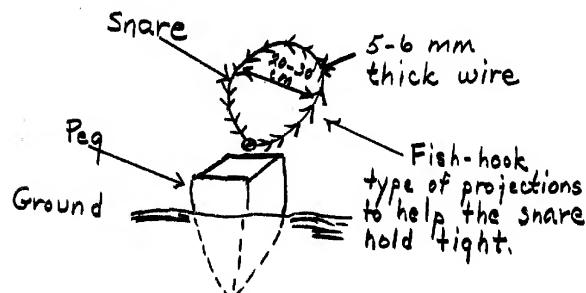
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17. The snares (teleni primki) used by the Border Guard are simple wire devices with a wooden peg for an anchor set into the ground and camouflaged as well as possible. Unsuspecting persons moving in the area trip the snare by stepping into it. The snares serve their purpose by halting the progress of the person so caught until the Border Guards reach him and check on his reasons for being in the area.

(A sketch based on a free-hand drawing [redacted] showing these snares is included below).

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Communications

18. There are radio sending and receiving sets at all Border Guard Zastava headquarters of 1 Border Guard Komandatura, subordinate to 7 Border Guard Otryad. The 2 and 3 Border Guard Komandaturas have one set each, in addition to the set at Komandatura headquarters. These sets are at the "Orlove" Border Guard Zastava headquarters of 2 Border Guard Komandatura and the "Truyu" Border Guard Zastava headquarters of 3 Border Guard Komandatura.

19. [redacted] there is a double line of telephone wires extending the length of the border, approximately 200 meters inland and parallel to the border, in the area of 1 Border Guard Komandatura. This double line has female plugs on all telephone posts, permitting the patrols to plug in portable telephones. There are no such telephone lines in the areas of 2 and 3 Border Guard Komandaturas. There are radiotelephone sets of Soviet manufacture, approximately 25 x 50 centimeters, which can be carried by two men, and are generally used by larger details, such as the Highway Control and Supplementary Patrols, for communicating with Zastava headquarters.

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Uniforms

20. Border Guard troops are issued both a summer and a winter uniform. The winter uniform is worn from 15 October to 15 May and consists of brown serge "knicker" type trousers, and a jacket and cap of the same material. The epaulets are green with a red border. No collar insignia is worn, except on the overcoat, which is also of brown serge. This collar insignia, like the epaulets, is green with a red border. The summer uniform is worn from 15 May to 15 October and is made of "thin" green cloth. The cut of the summer uniform is identical with the cut of the winter uniform, and the same type of epaulets are worn in winter and summer. The officers have a dress uniform of khaki-colored serge and a work uniform of "thin" olive drab cloth. This uniform consists of breeches, instead of trousers, and boots. The officers work uniform consists of "knicker" type trousers, a jacket and a cap. Heavy army shoes are worn with this dress. The officers wear silver-grey epaulets edged with red and the same type of collar insignia as worn by the troops on the collar of the overcoat. Although the troops are supposed to be issued new uniforms every year, they have at best been issued two sets of uniforms every three years.

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21. The Border Guard troops are also issued two water-proof ponchos, a green one for summer and a white one of thick cloth for winter wear. For night duty, they are issued rubber overshoes which are supposed to muffle the sound of walking.

Miscellaneous

22. The Zastava commander, or his designated assistant, prepares the daily schedule of activities and in turn receives a verbal report from the leaders of the various patrols at the end of their tours of duty. Some reports, such as those submitted by Observation Post Details, are submitted in writing. The Charge of Quarters makes a written record of all information reported to the Zastava headquarters while he is on duty.

23. While on duty, members of the patrols may smoke, sit, lie down or generally rest, but may not talk or sing. Generally, the Border Guard duty comes up once every three days and those who return to headquarters after an 8-hour patrol are usually free for the rest of the day.

24. The duration of Border Guard Service is 39 months. Three months of this period is basic training, while the rest is actual Border Guard duty. During this 39-month period, the troops are entitled to 20 days leave.

25. Should a Border Guard trooper be credited with apprehending an illegal border crosser or a would-be escapee, he may be given a reward of from 200 to 1200 leva, extra leave, a promotion, a combination of any two of these, or even all three in exceptional cases. Border Guards are generally recruited from the following categories:

- Communists or Communist sympathizers;
- Married men; and
- Inhabitants of villages known to be pro-Communist.

26. [redacted] the reason for choosing married men is that the Border Guards are informed that their immediate families will suffer direct reprisals should they fail in their duties as Border Guards, or should they try to escape from Bulgaria by taking advantage of their proximity to the border. [redacted] the troops were officially told that the inhabitants of the following villages in 7 Border Guard Otryad area were known as anti-Communists:

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- Indzhe Voyvoda (N 42-13, E 27-24);
- Brushlyan (N 42-04, E 27-25);
- Granichar (N 42-07, E 27-15); and
- Stoilovo (N 42-03, E 27-30).

Special undercover agents of the Border Guard are constantly being sent into these villages to spy on the activities of the villagers in order to ascertain if any of them are planning to flee Bulgaria, and, if possible, to induce some to attempt escape so they may be arrested.

27. The Border Guard is assisted in its work by the Army and the Militia. Army and Militia troops are permitted no further than five kilometers to the border and are liable to arrest for any closer approach. Local

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volunteers are formed into units called DOSO (Dobrovolna Organizatsiya za Sudeystvie na Otbrana; Voluntary Organization for Defense Assistance), who, because they are residents of the border area, know the area well and are more or less permanently used by the Border Guard, especially for night patrolling of their own villages. Most shepherds in the border area are in the employ of the Border Guard, who pay up to 1000 leva for information leading to the arrest of illegal border crossers or those attempting to flee Bulgaria. Shepherds are instructed not to take any action themselves but to misdirect all persons who ask for directions and then notify the Border Guard, or to notify the Border Guard of the presence of all strangers in the area.

28. The morale of the Border Guard troops is not high and, except for the harsh discipline and the fear of reprisals against their families, desertions to foreign countries would be numerous. Even the DSNM (Dimitrovski Sjuz na Narodnata Mladezh; Dimitrov Union of the People's Youth) members are discontent. 25X1

29. The Border Guard diet consists of bread, cheese and tea for breakfast; corn meal mush, maccaroni or marmalade, and a plate of either potatoes, beans, or cabbage for lunch or supper. Two or three times a week the meal contains a small amount of meat.

30. Except for the few horses used as mounts by details, such as the Area Reconnaissance Detail ("Krugov Dozor"), the only other means of transportation used by the Border Guard Zastavas are mule-drawn wagons. These wagons are employed to transport supplies to the units, and then only in dry weather, as the Zastava headquarters are usually located in hilly areas with bad inland road connections. The use of motor vehicles is impossible in 7 Border Guard Otryad area.

31. The pay of Border Guard privates is 2.20 leva per month, of which .20 is automatically deducted for such things as DSNM dues. Net pay is therefore 2 leva per month.³

1. [REDACTED] 25X1

2. [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED] the Black Sea Coast Sector is under direct control of the Bulgarian Navy. 25X1

3. [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED] second lieutenants receive 400 leva per month plus allowances. 25X1

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